

CORRESPONDENCE

(144)

Respecting proposed negotiations for a commercial arrangement between Canada and France.

FOREIGN OFFICE, July 4, 1907.

The Honourable R. LISTER, C.V.C., &c., &c., &c.

SIR,—In my telegram No. 10 commercial of the 23rd of May I informed Sir F. Bertie that Sir W. Laurier desired to open negotiations for new commercial conventions with the French government, and I requested that His Excellency would endeavour to assist him in the attainment of his object.

You are doubtless cognizant of the Marquess of Ripon's despatch of June 28, 1895, to the governors of the principal British colonies in which it was laid down that commercial negotiations of this nature between His Majesty and the Sovereign of the foreign state should be conducted by His Majesty's representative at the court of the foreign power. A copy of this despatch is enclosed herewith.

I do not however think it necessary to adhere in the present case to the strict letter of this regulation, the object of which was to secure that negotiations should not be entered into and carried through by a colony unknown to and independently of His Majesty's government.

The selection of the negotiator is principally a matter of convenience and, in the present circumstances, it will obviously be more practical that the negotiations should be left to Sir W. Laurier and to the Canadian Minister of Finance or the Canadian ministers, who will doubtless keep you informed of their progress.

If the negotiations are brought to a conclusion at Paris, you should sign the agreement jointly with the Canadian negotiator, who would be given full powers for the purpose.

GREY.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

DOWNING STREET.

June 8, 1892.

The GOVERNOR GENERAL, &c., &c., &c.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit to you for your information and for that of your government, with reference to your despatch No. 135 of the 23rd of April, the correspondence noted below respecting the proposed negotiation for a commercial arrangement between Canada and France.

R. H. MEADE,
For the Secretary of State.

DOWNING STREET.

May 14, 1892.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
Foreign Office.

SIR,—I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury a copy of a despatch and its enclosures from the Governor Gen-

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eral of Canada urging that the High Commissioner for Canada should be empowered with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to negotiate a commercial arrangement between Canada and France.

I am to request to be informed of the answer which Lord Salisbury would wish to be returned to this despatch.

EDWARD WINGFIELD.

VICTORIA CHAMBERS,
17 VICTORIA STREET.
12 May, 1892.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
Colonial Office.

SIR,—I have the honour to refer the Secretary of State to the report of a Committee of the Privy Council of Canada, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 16th ultimo, with regard to trade between the Dominion and France.

It is recommended in the minute in question that His Excellency the Governor General should cause a despatch to be sent to the Secretary of State setting forth the facts in connection with the existing commercial arrangements between the two countries, and requesting that *I might be appointed a joint plenipotentiary* with His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, with a view to discussing the matter fully with the French government in order, if possible, to arrange for an extension of the minimum tariff of France to imports from the Dominion, having regard to the circumstances mentioned in the order in council.

I beg, therefore, to suggest that the Secretary of State will be so good as to move the Foreign Office to request the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava to take advantage of a favourable opportunity of enquiring of the French government whether they would be prepared to enter upon negotiations for the purpose I have mentioned, and the time that would be most convenient to them.

If the reply is favourable I shall arrange to proceed to Paris as soon as the necessary formalities have been completed.

CHARLES TUPPER.

VICTORIA CHAMBERS,
VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, SW.,
June 1, 1892.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
Colonial Office.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Wingfield's letter of the 31st ultimo, with reference to the proposed negotiations for a commercial arrangement between Canada and France. I have much pleasure in concurring in the suggestion that Sir Joseph Crowe should be associated with the Marquis of Dufferin and myself in the matter.

CHARLES TUPPER.

PARIS, May 24, 1892.

RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD,—In acknowledging the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 110 commercial of the 19th of May, respecting the proposition of the government of Canada, that the High Commissioner should be empowered with myself to negotiate a commercial arrangement between Canada and France, and asking my opinion on the matter, I have the honour to state that I see no reason why a communication embody-

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ing the wishes of the Canadian government should not be submitted to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a fair expectation that the latter would be willing to enter upon an examination of the Canadian proposals. Though I am quite willing myself to assist the High Commissioner in the discharge of his tasks, so far as may be in my power, I would venture to suggest that Sir Joseph Crowe should also take part in the negotiations as he has done on previous occasion.

DUFFERIN AND AVA.

DOWNING STREET.

May 21, 1892.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 12th instant respecting a trade arrangement between Canada and France, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acquaint you that he had already caused a copy of the Dominion order in council referred to in your letter to be communicated to the Foreign Office, and that a copy of your letter will also be sent to that department.

I am to add that you will be informed as soon as a reply has been received from the Foreign Office.

J. BRAMSTON.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

May 30, 1892.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
Colonial Office.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 21st inst., respecting the proposed negotiations on the subject of trade between Canada and France, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you to be laid before Lord Knutsford a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris suggesting that Sir Joseph Crowe should take part in these negotiations. Lord Salisbury would be glad to learn Lord Knutsford's opinion on this suggestion.

I am to add that Sir J. Crowe has followed with the greatest attention all the successive phases of the commercial policy of France.

JAMES W. LOWTHER.

DOWNING STREET,

May 31, 1892

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this department of the 21st inst., I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit for your consideration a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office enclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, suggesting that Sir J. Crowe should be associated with himself and you in the proposed negotiations for a commercial arrangement between Canada and France.

Lord Knutsford would be glad to be favoured with your views on this subject.

EDWARD WINGFIELD.

